



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

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## **Cooperative Health Center Gets \$5 Million for Expansion**

The Cooperative Health Center (CHC) in Helena has received a \$5 million federal grant to help pay for capital improvements.

The money will be used to expand and improve the CHC building at 1930 Ninth Ave. The clinic has shared the building with public health staff of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department for the past 15 years.

Kate McIvor, CHC director, said the current clinic building has functional problems, such as narrow corridors and exam and waiting rooms that are too small. She said the number of clientele and staff have grown to the point that the existing building can't hold them comfortably and safely. She and her staff anticipate 50 percent more patients in the next 20 years.

The grant will be used to double the space used by the CHC, including addition of eight medical exam rooms and three dental exam rooms.

McIvor said planning for the expansion will begin in a few months, but actual construction won't begin for at least a year.

The CHC provides medical, dental, and mental-health care to residents of Lewis and Clark County regardless of income or insurance status. Services are provided on a sliding-fee scale depending on family size and income.

Kathleen Sebelious, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, announced the grant from the Affordable Care Act Tuesday.

*The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis & Clark County residents.*